



# SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK

## Ceremony marks revolutionary changes in officer curriculum

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**KEESLER AFB, Miss.** — With Air Force major command and agency sponsorship, several McClelland Hall classrooms at Keesler AFB, Miss., are getting a much needed and extensive facelift, along with the curriculum for Air Force Communications Officer Training. A massive rewrite has taken place to bring the right curriculum and delivery method into every classroom.

The new curriculum includes shorter, more focused initial and advanced courses, an engineering trailer course and the standup of seven supplemental courses providing in-depth study of specific communication topics.

“Developing air and space leaders has become synonymous with transformation and future mission success,” said Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, during the AFCOT grand reopening ceremony in March. “We are cultivating a new culture of warrior leaders who are able to bridge the gap between the Air Force of today and the expeditionary air and space force of tomorrow.”

With the new training program, the Expeditionary Communications Officer Training course replaces the Basic Communications Officer

### Course upgrades

- ▶▶ Officer Network Training
- ▶▶ Enterprise Network Operations Management
- ▶▶ Executive Officer Education
- ▶▶ Officer Information Operations
- ▶▶ Deployed and Tactical Communications
- ▶▶ Officer Space Education
- ▶▶ Warfighting Integration

Training course and reduces the number of training days from 64 to a more comprehensive 26 days.

While ECOT will provide an overview of the entire communications field and all the functions communications officers perform, it will be focused on base-level communications, communications squadrons and their functions, resource management and project management. Electrical and computer engineers will attend a separate electrical engineering course after ECOT. Supplemental courses ranging from four to 14 days will provide in-depth, specific education necessary for officers to assume new or increased responsibilities beyond their first assignment.

In addition to rewriting curriculum, a renewed commitment to instructors is providing them training and education in contingency wartime planning, space fundamentals, information security, information

assurance, chief of maintenance, information management and other communications areas.

Senior communications leaders and major command representatives began the process to revamp the curriculum in June. In doing so, they recognized the need for career-long development and training throughout an officer's career. The new program also addresses the delivery methods used in the classroom. Every course is being reviewed for technology insertion and hands-on training wherever possible and more than \$150,000 in equipment purchases is under way to progress from a lecture and discussion environment to hands-on training.

“Our expeditionary communications training will provide a ‘train when needed’ approach,” said General Hobbins. “We’ll be teaching communications officers the skills they need when they need them—in sync with their new job responsibilities.”

Courses may be taken immediately following ECOT depending on each officer's duty assignment. More than likely, officers will return to Keesler as their primary duties change to get the supplemental training as an active part of force development. Scheduling for supplemental training will be coordinated between MAJ-COM functional managers and the assignments team at Air Force Personnel Center.



Classrooms at McClelland Hall were brought into the 21st Century with decorations such as artwork. Major Commands sponsor a room and decorate it to represent the command's mission.